

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MBABAN 00188 210956Z
ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 PM-04 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 /029 W
-----210958Z 125446 /15

P R 210810Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1006
INFO AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LOLONGWE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 0188

CAPE TWON FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, WZ, SF
SUBJECT: END-USE CHECK: SOUTHERN CROSS

REF: STATE 9877 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF ESTABLISHED JANUARY 18 THAT SWAZILAND AUTHORITIES
HAD NO RECORD OF IMPORT PERMIT CITED PARA 1 REFTEL. CHARGE
THEN MET PRIVATELY WITH POLICE COMMISSIONER MTHETWA
JANUARY 19 TO DETERMINE WHAT HE KNEW OF PROPOSED
IMPORTATION, INCLUDING ULTIMATE DESTINATION/USE. APPROACH
WAS ON BASIS OF "TIPPING COMMISSIONER OFF" ABOUT THIS
WEAPONS ORDER AND "SOLICITING HIS VIEWS ON ITS IMPLICATIONS
FOR PUBLIC SAFETY IN SWAZILAND."

2. MTHETWA PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF PANATRADE ORDER AND
EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS ABOUT THIS QUANTITY OF WEAPONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MBABAN 00188 210956Z

ENTERING SWAZILND. HE SUGGESTED THAT ORDER COULD
BE INTENDED FOR SHIPMENT VIA SOUTH AFRICA, WHENCE IT
COULD BE DIVERTED FOR USE THERE (OR ELSEWHERE) AND NOT
EVER REACH SWAZILAND. TO SUPPORT THIS THEORY, HE
RECOUNTED CASE WHICH COVERED PERIOD MAY 1975 TO APRIL
1976 IN WHICH SOUTH AFRICAN GUN-RUNNING FIRM ATTEMPTED
USE SWAZILAND AS ALLEGED DESTINATION FOR WEAPONS THAT

WERE TO BE INTERCEPTED IN JOHANNESBURG FOR ULTIMATE USE IN SOUTH AFRICA. MTHETWA CONCLUDED BY THANKING CHARGE FOR BRINGING PANATRADE CASE TO HIS ATTENTION. ADDED THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH PRIME MINISTER (WHO, HE SAID, COULD HAVE PLACED AN ORDER WITHOUT INFORMING POLICE COMMISSIONER) AND WOULD CONTACT CHARGE AFTERWARDS.

3. MTHETWA CALLED CHARGE JANUARY 20 TO REPORT THAT GOS UNAWARE OF PANATRADE ORDER. SAID HE HIMSELF KNEW OF NOTHING OF SOUTHERN CROSS EXCEPT THAT THE FIRM EXISTS. REPEATED HIS STATEMENT OF PREVIOUS DAY TO EFFECT THAT HIS OFFICE WOULD HAVE HAD TO ISSUE IMPORT PERMIT, WHICH IT HAD NOT DONE.

4. ACTION RECOMMENDED: IN VIEW FOREGOING, EMBASSY NECESSARILY RECOMMENDS AGAINST ISSUANCE US EXPORT LICENSE. HOWEVER, TO HELP IN DEVELOPING INFO ON SOUTHERN CROSS'S MODUS OPERANDI, WHICH EMBASSY STILL INVESTIGATING, SUGGEST PANATRADE BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH COPY OF ALLEGED SWAZILAND IMPORT PERMIT BEFORE PANATRADE IS INFORMED OF DEPARTMENT'S NEGATIVE POSITION. EMBASSY MBABANE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE ALLEGED IMPORT PERMIT.
WACHOB

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMALL ARMS, SMUGGLING, END USE CHECKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MBABAN00188
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770022-0933
Format: TEL
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770130/aaaaazxt.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 020861d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION MC
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 9877
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3539599
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: END-USE CHECK: SOUTHERN CROSS
TAGS: MILI, WZ, SF, US, SOUTHERN CROSS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/020861d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009